GROUND ZERO
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PRESS RELEASE
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FRANKLIN WHITWORTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IN THE GAZETTE TELEGRAPH OF MAY 8, 1993, THE STATEMENT WAS MADE THAT GROUND ZERO SAID IT WOULD NOT BACK OFF THE BOYCOTT. THE ONLY INTERVIEW GIVEN ON THAT SUBJECT WAS GIVEN TO A REPORTER WITH THE DENVER POST, TO WHOM THE GROUND ZERO SPOKESPERSON, FRANKLIN WHITWORTH, SAID THAT "GROUND ZERO REASSESSES STRATEGY ALL THE TIME AND THAT IF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY WERE TO CHANGE, WE WOULD CERTAINLY REEVALUATE OUR STRATEGY WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE."

GROUND ZERO HAS NEITHER SAID WHETHER IT WOULD OR WOULD NOT "BACK-OFF THE BOYCOTT." THE ORGANIZATION IS NOT PRINCIPALLY A BOYCOTT ORGANIZATION. WE ENDORSED THE CONCEPT OF THE BOYCOTT AS AN EFFECTIVE MESSAGE ONE MIGHT SEND IN REGARD AMENDMENT TWO. WE HAVE NOT PROACTIVELY SOUGHT OUT ANY SPECIFIC PERSON OR COMPANY AND ASKED THAT THEY BOYCOTT. WE HAVE FOUND THAT MOST OF OUR TIME IS SPENT IN EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH. THIS REMAINS OUR POLICY AT THIS TIME.

GROUND ZERO SPOKESPERSON, FRANKLIN WHITWORTH, DID SAY CASUALLY TO A GAZETTE REPORTER THAT THE ARTICLE IN THE POST QUOTING TORIE OSBORN WAS OVER REPORTED. THAT SHE HAD MADE THE SUGGESTION THAT IT MIGHT BE TIME TO CONSIDER ENDING THE BOYCOTT VERY LIGHTLY--NOT AS A MAJOR STATEMENT OF POLICY. FURTHER, THE OPINION WAS EXPRESSED THAT BEFORE ANYONE CAN "CALL OFF THE BOYCOTT" A GREAT DEAL OF CONSENSUS BUILDING WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING LOCAL GROUPS. NO ONE PERSON OR GROUP CALLED FOR THE BOYCOTT AND NO ONE PERSON OR GROUP CAN EFFECTIVELY CALL IT OFF.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT GROUND ZERO BELIEVES THAT MS. OSBORN'S STATEMENTS WERE PREMATURE AND OVER-REPORTED, GROUND ZERO IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF MS. OSBORN, AS NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE NGLTF, AND IN THE WORK AND MISSION OF THE NGLTF.